2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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648 military authorities throughout this episode in the history of the Colony.

643 In my early days in Aden, government was comparatively simple. The Resident, who was the senior civil official and *ex-officio* Commander-in-Chief, drove down to his office in Tawahi every morning from the Residency to deal with routine affairs and see anyone who cared to call on him. All were welcome, from the more senior departmental officers to the humblest of the humble of the subjects of His Majesty. Sir Bernard Reilly, who then held that position, had an amazing capacity for work and for play, and he succeeded in remaining outwardly completely unruffled even when dealing with important operations in the Protectorate which involved that much discussed topic, bombing, or when provoked by the Governments of both India and Bombay who invariably treated Aden as if it was a small town in the Bombay Presidency. Such was his conduct in public, but in private I have known him to express his views both freely and frankly.

645 In addition to the Resident there were four of us in the Secretariat, Gordon[1] of the Indian Political Service, who was the First Assistant Resident, Champion[2] of the Colonial Service, who was the Political Secretary, Lake,[3] the one and only Political Officer, and myself. I acted as Second Assistant Resident, in addition to my other duties at the Residency itself where I was a glorified A.D.C. Champion and Lake ran the Protectorate between them with the help of the head interpreter, Khan Bahadur Muhammed Salim Ali, an elderly gentleman with a Mongolian caste of countenance, who sat in a particularly small room under the stairs surrounded by papers, smoking a very bubbly water pipe, with his turban-like headdress on the back of his head or resting among the files, depending upon the heat of the room and his own degree of irritation. He had a remarkably hoarse voice and wore a pair of spectacles on the end of his nose, over which he peered at the crowd of Sheikhs, tribesmen and hangers-on, all wanting something and

[1] Now Lt.-Colonel J. de la H. Gordon, C.S.I., C.I.E., O.B.E., M.C.
[2] Now Sir Reginald Champion, K.C.M.G., O.B.E.
[3] Lt.-Colonel M. C. Lake, C.M.G. (dec.).

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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all talking at once, who squatted in what little space there was inside the room and overflowed into the passage outside. The work these three men did was incredibly difficult and yet they were successful to a remarkable degree, and succeeded in maintaining not only security on the trade routes in the Protectorate, but at the same time they were able to strengthen the ties between Government and the Rulers.

Outside the Secretariat there were only three European officers of the Government. The senior was the Chairman of the Port Trust Board and of the Settlement Board, and at the time of which I am writing the appointment was held by an officer of the Royal Engineers who had been seconded to the civil engineering side of the Government of India. He presided over the Board of Trustees of the Port and was also the Chief Executive Officer, and in addition he managed the affairs of the Settlement. The Settlement, as I have already indicated, was a term which included all the British territory which is now the Colony, and the Settlement Board was the successor of what in fact had been a Municipal Committee. A municipality was formed some while after our occupation of Aden in 1839, but it was not until 1882 that any attempt seems to have been made to produce a set of municipal rules. In 1900 the local authority ceased to be called a Municipal Committee and became known as the Aden Settlement. As such it, in fact, did everything, and rather more, that an ordinary municipality does in this country. The "rather more" being control of the electric light supply and also the water supply, both profitable undertakings which were wrested from it when in 1937 Aden became a Crown Colony and the new Colonial Government was in search of funds.

The next important European officer was the Judicial Assistant, who succeeded in combining with a reasonable degree of success the duties of legal adviser to the Resident and Judge of the District and Sessions Court. The last, but by no means least important of the European officers, was the Commissioner of Police who was seconded from the Indian Police and under the District Magistrate was responsible for the maintenance of law and order.

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KHAN BAHADUR SIR MUHAMMED MACKAWWI, K.B.E.

[facing p. 18]

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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645 The most outstanding personality that Aden has ever
647 produced was the late Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammed Abdul Qadar Mackawwi, K.B.E. I came to know him intimately in course of time and to benefit greatly, not only in my early days in Aden, but later when I was Governor, from his wise advice. He was a fine man and a credit to any country, and it was Aden's misfortune that ill health should overtake him just when his wise counsel was most needed. He died in 1953.

The first time that I came in contact with him occurred in this way: One morning I was in my office in the Secretariat and the Resident rang his bell, and as I entered his office he said:

"Here are the nominations to the Port Trust Board which I have discussed with the Chairman. They must go to Bombay for the Governor's approval as soon as possible," and he handed me a file.

"Have you made any alterations, Sir?" I inquired.

"No. The Chairman wants me to drop Mackawwi, he thinks he is on too many committees and that he should have a rest. At least that is what he says, but in fact he finds him an infernal nuisance. No. I am not going to drop Mackawwi; if I did there would be no-one to keep the Chairman up to his work," was the answer I got.

It was later the same morning that Mackawwi came to see me. Tall and almost incredibly thin, with ears even more prominent than my own, he wore a small grey moustache and a tuft of white hair which would have been an imperial if it had only been rather higher up on his chin. He had that quiet dignity of manner which is a characteristic of all well-bred Arabs. He was dressed, as was his normal custom, in a long white cotton gown which reached to his feet, over which he wore a coat of the same material and colour and a waistcoat adorned with a gold watch-chain. His head-dress in winter was an embroidered red woollen turban, and in summer a lighter one of silk surrounding a small, white, knitted cotton cap. On ceremonial occasions and sometimes when it was really cold in the winter, he wore a black overcoat which he had bought in London on the only occasion that he had visited the United Kingdom. Though invariably polite, even when

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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annoyed, he was rather a trying visitor because he never spoke above a whisper and was in consequence at the best of times very difficult to hear; in Committees it was often quite impossible to follow what he was saying unless one was seated next to him. His family, as the name implies, came originally from Mecca, but he himself was of mixed blood; one of his grandmothers was a Somali and his mother was of Egyptian descent. His father had been the Settlement engineer, a man of unusual talents who had written two small books, one on Chemistry and the other on Muslim Law; and being a man of remarkable integrity had died with no fortune to leave to his sons. Mackawwi was largely self-educated and started to earn his living as a petition writer and a teacher of Arabic to the Officers of the garrison. Ambitious and restless he turned to trade and began to deal in hides, skins and coffee on borrowed capital. He was fortunate and industrious, and as his business expanded he travelled in the Red Sea area, visiting the Yemen ports, Abyssinia and the Sudan.

In the Sudan he met General Sir Reginald Wingate and Lady Wingate whose brother, General Sir Leslie Rundle, had been a pupil of his as a young officer. Sir Leslie and his sister were the children of Mr. Rundle, the Royal Naval Mate who first planted the Red Ensign on the soil of Aden in 1839 at Sirah Island in Crater. He was promoted to Lieutenant for his courage and leadership on that occasion, and his flag has been framed and now hangs in Government House.

Realising the need in Aden for a good contractor, Mackawwi added building to his other activities. He was so successful in this new venture that by the time I came to know him his trading activities had ceased completely and he devoted his working hours to contracting. His leisure, if it can be so described, was spent in public work and charitable enterprises.

On this our first meeting he came to the point immediately.

"I want to talk to you about the Port Trust Board and the Settlement Committee. There should be more Arabs on them; this is essentially an Arab country and I alone represent my people on the Port Trust," he said, "and on the Settlement Committee there are only two of us."

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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000 generally withdrawn later. The official members must have been made of sterner stuff, or else they were anatomically unusual, for they never lost their unruffled calm throughout these Standing Finance Committee meetings, which were often long and tedious.

643 It is the Governor and the Governor alone who decides what
•645 matters should be brought before the Executive Council for their advice, and once he has submitted a subject to his Council and has been given advice, he is required to accept the unanimous view, or the majority view if unanimity is not possible. In very unusual circumstances the Governor can exercise his right to reject the advice he receives from his Council, but if he does then his reasons for so doing must be reported to the Secretary of State, and never in the ten years during which I was in one capacity or another connected with the Executive Council have I known the advice of the Council refused by the Governor.

645 The procedure in Council is in no way complicated. The
[643] Governor presides and deals with routine matters first, keeping the more difficult items on the Agenda until the Council has had time to settle down; then he introduces the more complicated subjects and either invites a general discussion or seeks the views of each member individually. Sometimes there is a quick decision, and sometimes there is productive discussion, and sometimes it takes a long time before a conclusion can be arrived at, but invariably in my time did the record in the Minute Book read "... the Governor accepted the advice of Council and ordered accordingly".

I sat between the Chief Secretary and the Attorney-General when I was first an "unofficial" member of the Council. The Chief Secretary sat on the right of the Governor who always asked the views of Council in a clockwise direction, which was greatly to my advantage because I was able to benefit from hearing practically everyone speak before it came to my own turn. At least it should have been greatly to my advantage, but on occasion it was quite extraordinary how little information I could gather from the remarks of the majority of my colleagues when I had neglected to do my own homework,

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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and how tediously verbose they seemed when I had; but 645 •
invariably the Attorney-General came to my rescue and I had
but to agree with him and I was home, as it were. Our meetings
were not at all like the free-and-easy chatty Port Trust affairs
which, strangely enough, did twice the work in half the time.
We were not unlike a rather serious-minded sixth form being
taken by the Head in person. Individually we were a curious
assortment of talent and mediocrity, inevitable in all great
Services, guided very largely by remote control from London.
The level in Aden was very high, and this combined with the
smallness of the Aden Service made the oddities look odder
than they really were. Among the various subjects which come 643
before the Executive Council I think the most difficult, and 645
certainly the most mentally disturbing, are the petitions for 696
mercy from persons who had been sentenced to death. They
are, I am glad to say, few and far between. In such cases the
final decision will mean life or death to one person, and make
no mistake about it, although the Governor has the advice of
Council and he has their aid in the decision which he has to
make, the decision is not theirs—*it is his*. The greatest care is
exercised to ensure that a right decision is given and the record
of the case and the judgments of the trying Judge and the
Court of Appeal are available to the Members and to His
Excellency, and they all have the benefit of hearing the clear,
concise and unbiased statement of the Attorney-General. There
is normally no general discussion after the Attorney-General
has finished speaking, but if individual Members have points
which they wish to have information upon, they are raised,
and when there is no more to be said then the opinions of the
Members of Council are taken. This is done according to
custom in an unusual way and is in rotation, beginning with
the most junior Member and so in order of seniority to the
Chief Secretary who is the senior of the *ex-officio* Members of
the Council. The question is simple and requires a Yes or a
No; it is whether or not the prerogative of mercy should be
exercised.

I did not take my seat in the Legislative Council as a nomin- 000
ated Unofficial Member for some time, in fact, not until there

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was enough business to warrant the Council being called together. Then having taken the oath and signed the Register I found myself immediately leader of the "Opposition". None of us on either side of the Council had any experience of political work or of public speaking, except perhaps for one lawyer on the Unofficial side and the Attorney-General and the Director of Education on the Government side. These gentlemen were accustomed to speaking in the Court or in the lecture hall and classroom, but that was not quite the same thing as addressing a body of men who had no desire to listen to arguments presented purely in a legalistic manner or to be "lectured", however able the lecturer; so even these gentlemen held their peace, except during the Budget Meetings when our lawyer sometimes got rather carried away, occasionally to the embarrassment of his own side, a happening, so I am informed, not confined solely to Colonial Legislatures.

There were no political parties at that time in Aden, so that we none of us represented any particular political movement and were, for the most part, elderly gentlemen representative of our own communities in the Colony who had been nominated for our proven loyalty and solid worth, rather than for our aptitude for politics or any particular intelligence. No attempt was made at that time to encourage the younger generation to take a responsible part in the government of the Colony. That was to come later when we had, all of us, more experience and were more sure of ourselves. One of the main difficulties that the Governor must have had in deciding who to nominate to represent the Arab majority of the population on the Legislative Council was that the official language of the Council was English and the common language of all the various committees was also English, and it was well-nigh impossible to find an able man of mature age among the Arabs who not only knew English but was prepared also to give up much of his time to public work. Immature lads there were, but no-one would have welcomed their appointment, least of all the more responsible members of their own community who would have had no faith in "children" as they termed them. Time was needed to mature the "children" and to accustom the grey-

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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beards to seeing comparatively young men in positions of responsibility. In the meantime we held the fort and tried to build up a tradition of sober and gentlemanly conduct in the Council which would curb the impetuosity without breaking the spirit of the younger generation when in the fullness of time they joined us and replaced us.

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As the leader of the Unofficial Members in the uneasy calm which had succeeded the Arab-Jewish riots in 1947, the line which I took then and continued to follow throughout my time on that side of the Council was that we were not in the usually accepted sense of the word an opposition. Although we were on the Unofficial side of Government we were jointly responsible with our official colleagues, for decisions taken in the Council which we had supported. It was not often that we raised our voice in opposition in the public meetings of the Council, because we preferred to reserve our criticism for the privacy of the Committee room, and sharp were some of the encounters which took place behind those closed doors. You may wonder why we should be unwilling to oppose Government openly in Council. The reason was that the temperament of people in the United Kingdom and the temperament of people in the Colonies is vastly different. In the United Kingdom very few people concern themselves unduly about the views of the Members of Parliament at Westminster, and verbal duels and quarrels in the Commons seldom, if ever, have the least effect upon public tranquillity. But Parliamentary Reports which are to be found on the minor and less important pages of only a few of the daily newspapers in this country often contain material which in a Colony, in the kindergarten stage of political development, would have a very unpleasant effect. In the Aden of ten years ago a really outspoken attack on the Government by the Unofficial Members would have had but one result; it would have undermined the authority of Government outside the Council Chamber, and in consequence there would have been a deterioration in security. At such a time this would have been serious. Government understood and respected our motives.

With the full approval of my Unofficial colleagues I summed

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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up our attitude in the course of my Address to the Legislative Council in reply to the Governor's Address at the formal opening of the new Session in 1949. The Governor's Address comes on the first day of the new Session and by tradition the Senior Unofficial Member replies immediately after "Questions" on the second day. I had drafted and re-drafted my speech, and I tried to learn the beginning and the end by heart, but when eventually I found myself on my feet in the Legislative Council I cannot recall that ever before have I felt so frightened. I had often read in the reminiscences of important personages that when they made their maiden speech in the House of Commons they had wondered at first who it was that was speaking and whose was the strange voice that they were hearing. I had thought this a gross exaggeration, but when I started to speak myself on this occasion I realised the truth of the statement. My voice sounded most peculiar at first, but after a time I began to be really interested in what I was saying and ceased to be nervous, at least not panic stricken; and to be quite frank, towards the end of my maiden effort I was slightly pleased with the progress I was making, especially when I was, so to speak, on the last lap. On that occasion I used these words:

"... On behalf of my colleagues I assure Your Excellency that we are proud to be associated with, rather I should say, to be a part of, the Government of this Colony and we will ever be ready to undertake any work for the benefit of the community which Your Excellency may decide to entrust to us. We realise our responsibilities and measures necessary for the security and well-being of the people of Aden will always have our support, for only by a united and strong Government can the peace and prosperity of the Colony be assured. ..."

Two years later on a similar occasion I made the position plainer still when I said:

"... Much that I say in my address reflects the views of all

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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or the majority of my colleagues, not always, of course, for on occasion I find myself at variance with many of my friends on this side of the Council. These differences of opinion occur even when all the members of the minority party in an assembly such as this are of one political persuasion, but they are normally subordinated to the interests of the party and the opposition generally presents a united front. Here we are not all of the same political persuasion, nor are we an opposition; we are a definite part of the Government of the Colony and as such are responsible to the people of the Colony that we do our duty in furthering their legitimate aims and safeguarding their interests, while at the same time co-operating to the full with the Official Members in all measures which are to the benefit of the Colony as a whole, distasteful though they may be to some individuals. I know that our position is little understood outside this Council and that when the younger members of the public recall that we exist, which I am afraid is not often, they are inclined to look upon us as a collection of elderly gentlemen incapable of saying 'No', who, in return for an enhanced social prestige of rather doubtful value, collect together at the bidding of the Government and agree to everything. Very natural, even some Members of Government have been known from time to time to make the same mistake, but this conception is absolutely wrong and the sooner that is realised, the better. We have our duty to do and we do it however unpleasant it may be, and what is more, we do that duty in the appropriate place—in the privacy of our Committee Room where we can, on occasion, be very outspoken, possibly too outspoken.

"We are members of one family and it ill becomes family members to differ and bicker in public if it can be avoided. Such conduct more often than not only brings discredit on the parties to the dispute with a serious loss of family prestige. Settle your differences at home and face the world united should be our policy and it is one which might be adopted by many persons outside this Council with advantage."

Strange words for the leader of an "Opposition", but it was

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a strange place, and what may suit the British, whom no-one understands, does not *ipso facto* suit all the peoples of the Colonial territories.

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The Standing Finance Committee, to which I have referred, was composed then, as it is now, of all the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council and only two of the Official Members, the Chief Secretary and the Financial Secretary, the former presiding. Here was a very heavy Unofficial majority in a very vital place, for the Standing Finance Committee controlled Government spending and carried out annually a detailed examination of the Colony Budget, a task which every spring entailed hours and hours of work and long and often acrimonious meetings, which always ended with an increase in mutual esteem. The Government men were able officials and good fellows, and you could have travelled far and long before you came upon a body of Unofficials more public spirited and less self-seeking.

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Gradually we all became more articulate, more experienced and more responsible in our actions and in our words. Our main platform was the expansion of education, the provision of adequate housing for the mass of the population, the provision of a good new civil hospital, and lastly, steady political development. It is curious that in those early days of the Legislative Council no-one clamoured in the Council for elections or for self-government, and we did not adopt the usual "run before you can walk" attitude of minority parties and extremists in some other Colonial Legislatures. It was not because we were apathetic, but rather, I suppose, because being older men than is usual in such institutions we were more alive to our own and other people's limitations and realised that we must learn our job before we could ask for promotion. At the same time we realised also that what was in one way our strength, for it indicated experience, was also our weakness, for some of us were too set in our ways to welcome change in a rapidly changing world. The yeast of youth was needed to leaven the experience of age, and I am glad to say that we did realise that, and in 1950 on behalf of my colleagues I stressed this point when I said:

The Port Trust and the Legislative Council

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"At the same time I feel it my duty to say that we realise that in the not too distant future an awakening sense of responsibility among the younger members of the community may justify Your Excellency's successor in making changes in the membership on the Unofficial side of the Council. If and when that time comes, I shall have occasion to refer to this later, we will be very willing and ready to do all that we can to co-operate. The honour of office has its undoubted attractions, just as it has its responsibilities, but those, and we trust that you will consider us among them, who really have the good and well-being of the people of the Colony at heart do not need the spur of public office to induce them to sacrifice their time and sometimes interests for the good of the community."

These may have been the words of one man, but it must be realised that they were the sentiments of all the Unofficial Members who had approved these words at a private meeting held in my office some days earlier. It was a broad enough hint for anyone, but little did I realise then that they were, in fact, addressed to myself and that it was I who was destined to be His Excellency's successor.

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I am afraid that neither the Press nor the public were much interested in our work in the Council; there was nothing spectacular, it was not "news" and not even that section of the Press which was already beginning to write of self-government in a most uninstructed manner and to put forward the claims of Arabic to be recognised as an official language, took the trouble to be present at the Reporters' table during the ordinary meetings of the Council. This does not mean that editors and reporters were absent from the official opening ceremony of each new Session of the Council; this was our one gala day of the year when the Governor, in full uniform, complete with feathers in his hat, and wearing his Orders and Decorations, with guards of honour and salutes, formally opened the new Session and delivered "the gracious Address", after handing decorations to those whom His Majesty had been graciously pleased to honour. This was quite a different state

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2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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of affairs; it was a spectacle, it was "news", and what was no less attractive a social occasion of the first magnitude. The élite of Aden society were there and the editors were not left out, but when the tumult had died down and the multitude departed, the editors, who were often their own reporters, were found to have gone as well.

It must not be imagined that real feeling about the political future of the Colony was non-existent. There were many people who were, in fact, seriously concerned, and a number of individuals looked forward to the time when they would be able to have a greater share in the control of their own affairs, but at that time there was nothing in the nature of a "party", as we understand the term in this country, inspired with nationalist ideas in any section of the community.

The Arab awakening was being accelerated by the rapid educational developments in the Colony and by the radio; the first a good influence, the second poisonous to young minds with its half-truths, anti-British propaganda and reports of riots and students' demonstrations, which were such a feature of those years. The first phase of this awakening was the realisation that with few exceptions the worthwhile work in the Colony was in the hands of foreigners to Aden, and the younger generation began to wonder and to ask why strangers had the cream of the employment while they had to make do with what was left. Mercifully the trade expansion after the war was creating fresh employment daily and there was work for every employable lad on leaving school, and I regret to say, very often before he should have left school. The murmuring did not go unheeded by the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council and we warned Government that there would be trouble unless the rights of local men and women to priority in employment, provided they were capable of doing the work, were recognised both by Government and by the employers. The warning was heeded by Government, but not by some of the "foreign" employers who claimed, not without reason, that the local article was not up to the standard of the imported. These employers continued to take advantage of a surplus of semi-skilled workers in India, which had been

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lines of a military school where the discipline is strict and the [292] boys are taught to be self-reliant. Dressed in their school [541] uniform of blue smock, gathered at the waist with a red sash and a white cotton head cloth held in place by a black cord, these boys put on a physical training display on gala occasions which would not disgrace the Royal Tournament at Earl's Court.

643 The old Sultan, His Highness Sir Saleh bin Ghalib, K.C.M.G., was a well-read and wise old gentleman whose death in 1956 was a sad blow to his people and to his State. [533] I have enjoyed his hospitality on more than one occasion and listened with pleasure to his band which, under an Indian Bandmaster, played Eastern and Western tunes with equal facility. It was this band that played at Government House in Aden when Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, honoured me with their presence at lunch in 1954. His Highness was himself present on that occasion, together with other representatives of the Protectorate and the [523] Colony. In his own house after dinner it was the Sultan's custom to entertain his guests with a cinema show which, whether composed of commercial productions or of films he had himself produced and photographed, was always entertaining, even though the sound was rather overpowering: I could never understand, since he was certainly not deaf, why he always had the sound turned up to such a degree that one was almost deafened. The Sultan loved anything to do with films and knew more than most amateurs about the mechanism of his cameras, projectors and tape recorders. It was in Mukalla that I saw and heard Charlie Chaplin speaking Arabic; an Arabic sound track having been added by the Sultan himself to one of the old silent Chaplin films.

636 Politically the State was more advanced than most of the
643 Protectorate States and His Highness ruled with the aid of a
645 State Council, on which were not only the able Sudanese Chief Minister and the astute Pakistani Finance Minister, but unofficial Arab members representing trading and other interests
642 in the State. Throughout the State, control and government
636 have been decentralised down from the Central Government

Minority Communities and Political Development

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The Legislative Council was enlarged slightly at the same time so that it consisted of nine *ex-officio* and nominated Official members, four Unofficial members elected by the electoral divisions of the Colony, one Unofficial member elected from among and by the members of the Municipal Committee, thus encouraging young men to work in that sphere and at the same time ensuring a proper representation of municipal interest, and four nominated Unofficial members. Of the nominated Unofficial members one was required by the Constitution to represent business interests and the others represented minority communities, or were persons whose wise counsel was of great value to the Chamber. Nine on each side of the Chamber, with the Governor presiding, there was thus a slender, very slender Government majority.

An analysis of the members showed that the Council consisted of eleven Europeans, two of them on the unofficial side, five Arabs, one Somali and one Indian. The fact that there were so many Europeans had no particular significance because there was no reason why a number of the Departmental Heads on the official side should not, in time, be local men. On the unofficial side the European who represented trading interests was the President of the Chamber of Commerce, an appointment which may well be filled at a not too distant date by a non-European, though it will always have to be borne in mind that the considerable trading interests of the European business houses must have adequate representation.

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At the same time as I informed the Legislative Council that changes in their constitution were contemplated, I was able to tell them that that very day the Executive Council had been strengthened by the addition of an Arab Unofficial member. Since then a further addition to the Executive Council has taken place and there were by the end of 1956 two Arab unofficial members as well as the one European Unofficial member. There had always been a European Unofficial member on the Council since the inception of the Executive Council in 1937.

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In the spring of 1956 there was a clamour in the Press for further constitutional advance, uninstructed clamour largely

From the "Upper Circle" 1958

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the Attorney General, the Financial Secretary and one other Government official and six members to be nominated by the Governor in his absolute discretion. The Governor will no longer preside over the Council, his place being taken, as is only appropriate, by a Speaker.

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The qualifications for electors and for candidates for election are to remain unchanged. This means that there will be no extension of the franchise and no relaxation of the rule which requires a candidate to be Aden born, or if not Aden born, to be a British subject or a British Protected person who has resided in the Colony for seven out of the last ten years. A very wise decision. Nothing could have been more foolhardy than to have extended the franchise at the present time beyond its already wide limits. To allow foreign subjects to be elected as Members of a Legislative Council would be unconstitutional in any country.

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With the grant of an unofficial elected majority it is proposed to appoint five Unofficial Members of whom three must be elected Members to take charge of the Departments of Education, Public Works, Communications, Labour and Social Welfare and the Health Department. They will be known as Members-in-Charge and will be responsible for their respective Departments. Early in 1956 I introduced the practice of associating individual Unofficial Members with Departments of Government with the object of preparing them for just this sort of development. The result is that the present Unofficial Members have gained valuable experience and one can only hope that the electorate, always a trifle capricious even in England, will have the good sense to return at least some of them to the Council at the next election where their experience will be of benefit to the Colony.

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The new Constitution will, of course, provide that the Governor shall exercise reserve executive and legislative powers. This is a normal procedure and essential, particularly in a politically juvenile Colony such as is Aden which has had a Legislative Council for only eleven years.

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The contemplated change in the composition of the Executive Council is as sweeping as that in the Legislative Council.

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645 The future Executive Council will consist of the five *ex-officio* Members of the Legislative Council and the five Members-in-Charge. The Governor will, of course, preside as he does at present.

000 The proposals are sound and, indeed, generous. It remains to be seen whether the electorate are wise enough to return rational and honest persons to represent them on the Legislative Council. If they don't they will have cut their own throats, a nasty messy business at any time, and it is no satisfaction to the victims to know that the wounds were self inflicted.

3:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden MM1

Gulf, which enables oil to be supplied at favourable rates, and the consequent inducement to ships to call for bunkers has also led to an increase of transit trade to the East African and Red Sea ports. 504

PERIM

The first trace of the occupation of Perim Island goes back as far as 1738 when the French landed there after the bombardment of Mocha. It was not until 5th May, 1799, that the British took formal possession, but it is recorded that, owing to difficulties in maintaining a supply of water, they evacuated the island in September of that year. 175

Perim was reoccupied by the British in January, 1857, under instructions from Lord Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay, to Sir William Coghlan, Political Resident and Commander, Aden, and Lieutenant Templar in the "Mahi" was deputed to effect the occupation. The island was then placed under the control of an Assistant to the Political Resident at Aden. This arrangement continued until 1929, when the Manager of the Perim Coal Company was appointed Government Agent. On the closing down of the Perim Coal Company in October, 1936, the Commissioner of Police, Aden, was appointed Administrator of the Island. A police detachment is maintained at Perim, and the Administrator makes regular visits from Aden, usually performing the journey by air. 175 642

II.—GOVERNMENT

Prior to the 1st April, 1932, the territory now comprising the Colony was administered by a Resident under the control of the Government of Bombay. From the 1st April, 1932, Aden became a Chief Commissionership, and control was transferred from the Government of Bombay to the Governor-General of India in Council, the Chief Executive Oficer at Aden being styled Chief Commissioner, Resident and Commander-in-Chief. On the 1st April, 1937, Aden was constituteda Crown Colony and was removed from the control of the Government of India. The Colony is administered by a Governor, who is also Commander-in-Chief, aided by an Executive Council which at present comprises five members. The Council consists of the persons holding the offices of Political Secretary and Civil Secretary and such other persons as the Governor in pursuance of instructions from His Majesty through the Secretary of State may from time to time appoint. At the present time, in addition to the ex-officio members, the Legal Adviser, the Finance Officer and the Chairman of the Port Trust and Settlement have been appointed to the Council. There is no Legislative Council. 642 643 645

Military Garrison

The Military Garrison of the Colony is under the command of an Air Officer Commanding. 701

There is a Naval Office in charge of the Naval Officer-in-Charge.

4:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1937) 1939 MM1 Aden MM1

of Aden is based on the fact that it is a fuelling station, originally for coal and now for coal and oil. It is nearer than any other large port on the main Eastern trade route to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's production centre in the Persian Gulf. The fact that ships call at Aden for fuelling has caused a general increase in trade, and it is the distributing centre for trade to and from Arabia, Abyssinia, Somaliland and Africa.

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5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

on the coast near Aden resulted in the capture of Aden by a successful expedition sent from Bombay by the East Indian Company under Major Bailey and Captain Haines of the Indian Navy. The latter became the first Resident. The desire to establish coaling-stations on trade-routes necessitated by the replacement of sailing-ships by steamers was one of the reasons which led to Aden's occupation by the British. The revival of the Red Sea route and the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 regained for Aden its old importance. As a result of the increased prosperity of Aden since British occupation, the civil population excluding military has risen from 500 to 80,516 (according to the census taken in October, 1946). The modern commercial prosperity of Aden is based on the fact that it is a fuelling-station, originally for coal, and now for coal and oil. It is nearer than any other large port on the main eastern trade route to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's production centre in the Persian Gulf. The fact that ships call at Aden for fuelling has caused general increase in trade, and it is the distributing centre for trade to and from Arabia, Ethiopia, Somaliland and Africa.

Perim Island was first occupied by the French in 1738. In 1799 the British took formal possession, but evacuated the island in the same year. It was later reoccupied by the British in January, 1857, and placed under the control of an Assistant Political Resident at Aden. In 1929 the Manager of the Perim Coal Company was appointed Government Agent, but, on the closing down of that Company in October, 1936, the Commissioner of Police, Aden, was appointed Administrator of the island. A police detachment is maintained at Perim, and the Administrator makes regular visits from Aden, usually by air.

Chapter 3 : Administration

Since 1937, when the territory was taken from the control of the Government of India and put under the Colonial Office, the constitution of Aden has been that of a Crown Colony. The Colony is administered by a Governor, assisted by an Executive Council.

Under the royal instructions, the Executive Council of the Colony consists of the officer lawfully discharging the functions of Chief Secretary and such other persons as may from time to time be appointed by His Majesty by any instructions or warrants under his sign manual and signet, or as the Governor may, by an instrument under the public seal of the Colony, appoint in pursuance of instructions from His Majesty through one of his principal Secretaries of State, or as the Governor may provisionally appoint in the manner provided in the royal instructions.

Whenever upon any special occasion the Governor desires to obtain the advice of any person within the Colony relating to affairs therein, he may summon such person, for such special occasions, as an Extraordinary Member of the Council.

5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

Appendix I

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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(as at 31st December, 1947)

His Excellency the Governor.
Hon. Chief Secretary.
Hon. A. Muchmore, C.B.E.
Hon. F. B. Taylor, O.B.E.
Hon. E. D. W. Crawshaw.
Dr. the Hon. E. Cochrane.
Hon. J. Goepel.

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Ex-Officio Members

The Air Officer Commanding, British Forces, Aden.
The Chief Secretary.
The Attorney-General.
The Financial Secretary.

Official Members

Hon. E. Cochrane, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.D.
Hon. W. L. Osborne, O.B.E.
Hon. J. Goepel.
Hon. H. F. Kynaston-Snell, M.B.E.

Unofficial Members

Hon. F. B. Taylor, O.B.E.
Hon. Khan Bahadur M. A. K. Mackawee, O.B.E.
Hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Salim Ali.
Hon. Seyid Abdu Ghanem.
Hon. Dinshaw H. C. Dinshaw.
Hon. Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, B.A., LL.B.
Hon. Judah M. Yahooda.
Hon. S. N. Day.

Appendix II

LIST OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

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(On sale through the Crown Agents *for the Colonies, 4 Millbank*, London, S.W.1.)

Official Gazette (weekly). Subscription Rs. 20 (with legal supplements) per year.
Aden Protectorate Gazette (quarterly). Subscription Rs. 5 per year.
Annual Report by the Financial Secretary for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1947.

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden

of the Red Sea route and the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 regained for Aden its old importance. As a result of the increased prosperity of Aden since British occupation, the civil population excluding military has risen from 500 to 80,516 (according to the census taken in October, 1946). The modern commercial prosperity of Aden is based on the fact that it is a fuelling-station, originally for coal, and now for coal and oil. It is nearer than any other large port on the main eastern trade route to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's production centre in the Persian Gulf. The fact that ships call at Aden for fuelling has caused general increase in trade, and it is the distributing centre for trade to and from Arabia, Ethiopia, Somaliland and Africa.

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Under the royal instructions, the Executive Council of the Colony consists of the officers lawfully discharging the functions of Chief Secretary, of Attorney General and of Financial Secretary and such other persons as may from time to time be appointed by His Majesty by any instructions or warrants under his sign manual and signet, or as the Governor may, by an instrument under the public seal of the Colony, appoint in pursuance of instructions from His Majesty through one of his principal Secretaries of State, or as the Governor may provisionally appoint in the manner provided in the royal instructions.

Whenever upon any special occasion the Governor desires to obtain the advice of any person within the Colony relating to affairs therein, he *may summon such person, for such special occasions,* as an Extraordinary Member of the Council.

Under the provisions of the Aden Colony (Amendment) Order, 1944, a Legislative Council was constituted for the Colony of Aden. The Council was inaugurated in January, 1947, and consists of the Governor as President, 4 *ex-officio* members, not more than 4 official members, and not more than 8 unofficial members. A list of members of the Executive and Legislative Councils is attached as Appendix I.

6:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MMI Aden M M I

APPENDIX

645

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

(as at 31st December, 1948)

His Excellency the Governor.
Hon. Chief Secretary.
Hon. Attorney-General.
Hon. Financial Secretary.
Dr. the Hon. E. Cochrane.
Hon. J. Goepel.
Hon. T. Hickinbotham, C.I.E., OB.E.

646

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Ex-Officio Members

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The Attorney-General.
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Hon. H. F. Kynaston-Snell, M.B.E.

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Hon. T. Hickinbotham, C.I.E., O.B.E.
Hon. Sir M. A. K. Mackawee, K.B.E.
Hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Salim Ali.
Hon. Seyid Abdu Ghanem.
Hon. Dinshaw H. C. Dinshaw.
Hon. Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, B.A., LL.B.
Hon. Judah M. Yahooda
Hon. S. N. Day.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

504 The modern commercial prosperity of Aden is based on the fact that
131 it is a refuelling station, originally for coal, and now for coal and oil.
439 It is nearer than any other large port on the main eastern trade routes to the oil companies' production centres in the Persian Gulf. The fact that ships call at Aden for fuelling has caused a general increase in trade, and it is the distributing centre for trade to and from Arabia, Ethiopia, Somaliland and the African coast.

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631 British took formal possession, but evacuated the island in the same year. It was later reoccupied by the British in January, 1857, and placed under the control of an Assistant Political Resident at Aden. In 1929 the Manager of the Perim Coal Company was appointed Government Agent, but on the closing down of that Company in October, 1936, the Commissioner of Police, Aden, was appointed Administrator of the island. A police detachment is maintained at Perim, and the Administrator makes regular visits from Aden.

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161 Aden Colony also includes Perim Island which is administered by
226 an Administrator who is also the Commissioner of Police, Aden. The
625 population of the island is 381. The majority of the islanders are
659 fishermen, and dried fish is exported to Aden. There is a small police detachment in the island together with medical and lighthouse staff.